

**TOWN OF LA POINTE
SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2010
At 4:30 at Town Hall**

Called to order at 4:33 PM.

Present: Beth Fischlowitz, Greg Nelson, Jim Patterson, Ham Ross, Larry Whalen, Jen Croonborg-Murphy, Mike Starck, Larry Hildebrandt, Jeff Beirl, Lois Carlson, William Tibbles

The purpose of this Special Town Board Meeting is to meet with Jeff Beirl, Ashland County Administrator & Larry Hildebrandt, Ashland County Zoning Administrator for the purpose of discussing the Inter-Municipal Agreement Between the Town of La Pointe & Ashland County for zoning services provided by the Town of La Pointe Zoning Department.

Greg Nelson gave a brief history of the Agreement. He agreed that the Island has received better zoning services under the terms of the Agreement, but now the Town must consider whether or not the services are worth the cost. Because of the recession, the expected number of permits issued has not panned out. He stated that he thought the Town's request for an increase in funding was realistic.

Jeff Beirl stated that he wants to be fair. He asked how much time the La Pointe Zoning Administrator spends on County services. He feels that the County is paying \$110-\$170 per permit and that the County could perform the zoning services for less than the \$15,000 that they are currently paying the Town of La Pointe.

Greg Nelson stated that he seriously questions the last statement.

Jen Croonborg-Murphy stated that the County raised its permit fee for holding tank reviews and did not compensate the Town.

Larry Hildebrandt stated that the County still has to come over to the Island and that he knows how long it takes to get the work done.

Jen Croonborg-Murphy stated that she makes money for the County by being on the Island all the time and that the Town spends more than \$15,000 on County work that is being done. She also pointed out that there is no way to track the work that she does for people who are never issued a permit. That figure doesn't show up in any of the data.

Greg Nelson stated that the Town has increased its share of the budget in Zoning but the County has not.

Jeff Beirl asked how much time is spent on County work.

Greg Nelson asked if the Town can provide documentation in this regard, will Beirl go to the County Board and get the Town the increase that was requested.

Jen Croonborg-Murphy stated that she will soon need clerical assistance on County work.

Greg Nelson stated that there has to be an element of trust and that the Town is saying that \$15,000 [from the County] is not enough to do the job. He also stated that since the Town is providing a little over 20% of the Ashland County budget, then the Town of La Pointe has already provided \$3000 of the \$15,000 that the County currently pays.

Larry Hildebrandt stated that if the Town terminates the Agreement, the County will need a work station in Town Hall.

Jen Croonborg-Murphy stated the Town has to pay for its own fire numbers, while the rest of the County has theirs provided by Ashland County.

Greg Nelson reiterated that he feels the Town's request is reasonable and that people who live here are not wealthy.

Jen Croonborg-Murphy requested the 2003-2004 costs for zoning on the Island in order to compare the pre- and post-Agreement figures.

Jeff Beirl stated that he can only provide the total budget; he does not have Island costs split out.

Jen Croonborg-Murphy asked how he can then claim to be able to do the job for less than \$15,000.

Jeff Beirl replied that the County will hold the line on its budget; service will decline. Budget & staff will remain the same.

Motion to adjourn: JP/GN 5A MC

Adjourned at 5:25 PM

Submitted by Patty Hobin, Town Clerk
Approved as submitted on 9/14/10
Patty Hobin